

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1563
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
GUIDELINES FOR UPLINKING OF PROGRAMMES
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has prepared guidelines for uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels from India;
- (b) if so, by what time these guidelines are to be revived further;
- (c) whether it has been reported that some news channels which have foreign institutional investments had sort revision of uplinking guidelines as per current norms;
- (d) if so, whether at present new channel is permitted to have up to 26% of foreign direct investment;
- (e) whether October 31, 2004 was the deadline by which all news channels must conform to the guidelines;
- (f) whether some of the firms had violated the rule;
- (g) if so, the details thereof, and
- (h) the action taken against those firms?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A RAJA)

- (a) : The Guidelines for uplinking of News & Current Affairs TV Channels were notified on 26.03.2003 which were revised further in respect of its eligibility criteria on 28.08.2003.
- (b): No time frame can be indicated.
- (c) : Yes, Sir
- (d): In respect of news channel companies, the Foreign Direct Investment is permitted up to 26% of the Paid up Equity.
- (e) to (h): The Government had fixed the deadline for 31st October, 2004 to conform to the revised guidelines. Further extension is being considered since the review of the uplinking policy is under consideration.